

AMRITA DHAR

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EMPLOYMENT

2018-present Assistant Professor of English, The Ohio State University

EDUCATION

2018 PhD in English Language and Literature, University of Michigan, USA
Dissertation: “Writing Sight and Blindness in Early Modern England”
Committee: Michael Schoenfeldt (Co-Chair), Valerie Traub (Co-Chair),
Theresa Tinkle, Linda Gregerson, Peggy McCracken (Cognate)

2009 MPhil in Renaissance English Literature, University of Cambridge, UK
Dissertation: “‘Light Denied’: Milton and His Blindness 1645-1656”
Supervisor: John Kerrigan

2006 MA in English Literature, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India

2004 BA in English Literature, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India

SCHOLARSHIP

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Early Modern English Literature
Shakespeare, Shakespeare in Performance, South Asian Shakespeares
Milton
Poetry and Poetics
Early Broadside Ballads
Disability Studies
World Mountaineering Literatures
Digital Humanities

PUBLICATIONS

“When They Consider How Their Light Is Spent: Intersectional Race and Disability Theories in the Classroom” in *Teaching Race in the Renaissance*, edited by Anna Wainwright and Matthieu Chapman (forthcoming from University of Toronto Press, 2020)

“Travel and Mountains” in *The Cambridge History of Travel Writing*, edited by Nandini Das and Tim Youngs (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019), pp. 345-360

“Toward Blind Language: John Milton Writing, 1648-1656,” *Milton Studies* 60 (2018), pp. 75-107

“[Seeing Feelingly: Sight and Service in King Lear](#)” in *Disability, Health, and Happiness in the Shakespearean Body*, edited by Sujata Iyengar (New York: Routledge, 2015), 76-92

“Food and Literature of the Himalayan Heights” in *The Writer’s Feast: Food and the Cultures of Representation*, edited by Supriya Chaudhuri and Rimi B. Chatterjee (New Delhi: Orient BlackSwan, 2011), 206-222

BOOK REVIEWS

“*Early Modern Theatre and the Figure of Disability*, by Genevieve Love” (invited for and forthcoming in *Renaissance Quarterly*, 2019)

“*Monstrous Kinds: Body, Space, and Narrative in Renaissance Representations of Disability*, by Elizabeth Bearden” (invited for and forthcoming in *College Literature*, 2019)

THEATRE REVIEWS

“*Much Ado About Nothing* [by Silicon Valley Shakespeare]” (invited for and forthcoming in *Shakespeare Bulletin*, 2019)

“*Hamlet* [by Silicon Valley Shakespeare],” *Shakespeare Bulletin* 36:1 (2018), 156-159

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

“Gifts for a Girl: Women in Indian Mountaineering,” invited for *Alpinist* magazine (in preparation)

“Towards a Social History of Mountaineering in India,” invited for *The Himalayan Journal* (in preparation)

“[The Matter of History: Himalayan Mountaineering and Its Archives](#),” *The Himalayan Journal* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2016), 26-40

“Two Walks in the Kishtwar” co-authored with Harish Kapadia, *The Himalayan Journal* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2015), 135-150

“[The Unaccommodated: The Himalaya and the Makers of Their Literature](#),” *The Himalayan Journal* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2013), 1-16

SELECTED HONOURS AND AWARDS

- 2015-2016 Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Michigan (competitive fellowship; full support; 31,000 USD)
- 2014-2015 Rackham Humanities Research Fellowship, University of Michigan (competitive fellowship; full support; 28,000 USD)
- 2013-2014 Barbour Scholarship, University of Michigan (competitive fellowship; full support; 26,000 USD)
- 2012 Lora Hutchins Heberle Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Critical Writing, Department of English, University of Michigan (competitive essay prize; 1,500 USD)
- 2008-2009 Kathleen Hannay Scholarship, Faculty of English, University of Cambridge (competitive fellowship; full support; 3,600 GBP)
- 2008 Junior Research Fellowship, University Grants Commission, New Delhi (declined)

SELECTED RESEARCH AND TRAVEL GRANTS

- 2018 Renaissance Society of America Scholarship for Digital Humanities Summer Institute (950 CAD)
- 2017 Digital Humanities Summer Institute Scholarship, University of Victoria (950 CAD)
- 2017 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Travel Grant, Department of English, University of Michigan (1,500 USD)
- 2016 Research Travel Dissemination Award, Early Modern Conversions Project, McGill University (800 CAD)
- 2016 Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant (Candidacy), University of Michigan (3,000 USD)
- 2014 Rackham International Research Award, University of Michigan (8,000 USD)

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

- April 2019 “Disabling the Early Modern Stage”, Shakespeare Association of America Conference, Washington, D.C. (by invitation of the seminar “Disability and Its Intersections)
- January 2019 “Further(ing) Early Modern Disability Studies,” Early Modern Conversions Conference on The Future of Conversion Studies, McGill University, Montreal (by invitation)
- January 2019 “Look At Will Through Every Pore: Milton’s Fantasy of Bodily Vision,” Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago
- October 2018 “Climb like a Girl: The Intersections of Gender, Caste, Class, and Youth in a Social History of Mountaineering in India,” [Thinking Mountains Interdisciplinary Summit, Conference of the Canadian Mountain Studies Initiative](#), University of Alberta, Banff (panel organiser)
- March 2018 “Milton’s Blind Verse in *Paradise Lost*,” Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans (panel organiser)
- March 2018 Discussant for “Teaching Race: A Roundtable,” Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans (by invitation)
- March 2018 “*Sushila-Birshingha*: Shakespeare Gone Local in Nineteenth-Century Bengal,” Shakespeare Association of America Conference, Los Angeles
- November 2017 “Student as Knowledge-Maker: Digital Pedagogy in the Early Modern Classroom,” [Digital Pedagogies Lightning Talks and Workshop](#), Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan (by invitation)
- September 2017 “When the Personal is Political: Conversions in George Herbert’s Devotional Verse,” [The Politics of Conversion](#), Newberry Library, Chicago
- April 2017 “Playing the Crip: The Simpcox Affair in *2 Henry VI*,” Shakespeare Association of America Conference, Atlanta
- March-April 2017 Discussant for “[Teaching Inclusivity through Early Modern English Literature: A Roundtable](#),” Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, Chicago
- December 2016 “From Marrakesh to the Tower of London: A Case Study in Jesuit Sixteenth-Century Epistolary and Textual Culture,” with John Paul Hampstead, [Beyond Borders: Mutual Imaginings of Europe and the Middle East 800-1700](#), Barnard College, New York

- November 2016 “Distant Reading Blind Language?,” Early Modern Conversions Digital Humanities Workshop [How To Do Things With Millions of Words](#), Green College, University of British Columbia, Vancouver
- May 2016 “Hameter/Elcius: The Construction of a Jesuit Martyrology, 1580-2,” with John Paul Hampstead, [Early Modern Conversions Team Meeting](#), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- March 2016 Respondent for “[Performing Disability on the Early Modern Stage](#),” Shakespeare Association of America Conference, New Orleans
- August 2015 “Mountaineering and Its Archives in India: The Present Past and the Present Future,” International Workshop on Digitization and Archiving, Jadavpur University, Kolkata
- July 2015 “Writing Blind,” [Eleventh International Milton Symposium](#), University of Exeter, Exeter
- May 2015 “The Pundits: High Knowledge across Peaks and Passes of the Himalaya in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries,” [Thinking Mountains Interdisciplinary Summit, Conference of the Canadian Mountain Studies Initiative](#), University of Alberta, Jasper
- April 2015 “The Ballads of Poor-Tom-ness,” Shakespeare Association of America Conference, Vancouver
- April 2014 “The Safer Sense and the Case of Eyes: Lear and Gloucester at the Cliffs of Dover,” Shakespeare Association of America Conference, St Louis
- March 2013 “Sight and Service in *King Lear*,” Shakespeare Association of America Conference, Toronto
- June 2012 “Satan Travels to the New World: Milton and Empire,” Renaissance Old Worlds: English Encounters from the Levant to the Far East, British Library, London
- July 2011 “Robert Hooke’s Accommodation of Science to Text,” The Book in Art and Science, Nineteenth Annual Conference of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing, Washington, DC

TEACHING

The Ohio State University at Newark

ENGLISH 4520 – Shakespeare’s Major Plays (Winter 2019; Instructor of Record)

Advanced undergraduate seminar towards in-depth literary critical evaluation of five of Shakespeare’s major plays, and some consideration of their afterlives; Richard III, The Merchant of Venice, Othello, King Lear, The Tempest

ENGLISH 3378 – Special Topics in Film and Literature: World Film Shakespeares (Winter 2019; Instructor of Record)

Advanced undergraduate seminar developing students’ close-reading skills of visual and verbal narrative through critical evaluation of film adaptations of seven Shakespearean comedies and tragedies; The Taming of the Shrew, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, The Tempest, Macbeth, Othello, Hamlet, King Lear

ENGLISH 4597 – The Disability Experience in the Contemporary World (Autumn 2018; Instructor of Record)

Advanced undergraduate seminar at the intersection of disability studies and cultural studies; materials considered include life writing, contemporary art and film, podcasts, critical essays, opinion pieces in newspapers, and novels

ENGLISH 2201 – Selected Works of British Literature: Medieval through 1800 (Autumn 2018; Instructor of Record)

Survey course exploring the canon of British Literature from its Anglo-Saxon beginnings to 1800

ENGLISH 1110 – First-Year English Composition (Autumn 2018; Instructor of Record)

Academic writing course on the fundamentals of college-level writing, with an introduction to literary analysis

University of Michigan

ENGLISH 420 – Reading With Your Laptop (Winter 2018; Teaching/Writing Fellow)

Upper-level course in literature and the digital humanities; authors considered include Aphra Behn, Mary Shelley, and Jane Austen; coursework includes use of the open-source programming language R to develop novel interpretations of literary texts

ENGLISH 124 – The Literature of Adventure (Fall 2017; Instructor of Record)

Academic writing course with critical evaluation of significant literatures of adventure generated across the world; authors considered include Homer, Tenzing Norgay, Lauret Savoy, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, and Robyn Davidson

ENGLISH 124 – Mountain Literatures (Winter 2017; Instructor of Record)

Academic writing course with critical evaluation of significant literatures of mountains and mountaineering across the world; authors considered include Leslie Stephen, Dorothy Pilley, Ang Tharkay, Nan Shepherd, and Robert Macfarlane

[ENGLISH 124 – The Literature of Wilderness and Exploration](#) (Fall 2016; Instructor of Record)

Academic writing course with critical evaluation of Western literature of wild and unknown places, discovery, exploration, and conservation; authors considered include John Muir, Isabella Bird, Eric Shipton, Aldo Leopold, and Gary Snyder

[ENGLISH 125 – Bodies at Work and Play](#) (Winter 2013; Instructor of Record)

Academic writing course with critical discussion of the inter-relationships between our physical and intellectual selves; authors considered include Jamaica Kincaid, Barack Obama, Elie Wiesel, and David Foster Wallace

[ENGLISH 125 – The Literature of Embodiment](#) (Fall 2012; Instructor of Record)

Academic writing course with consideration of selected texts from the literatures of sport, performance, and medicine; authors considered include Alan Sillitoe, Carol Ann Duffy, Marilyn Hacker, and Antony Sher

[ENGLISH 366 – Shakespeare’s Contemporaries](#) (Winter 2012; Discussion Section Instructor)

Advanced undergraduate lecture and discussion class covering ten plays by some of Shakespeare’s best-known contemporary playwrights, such as Christopher Marlowe, Ben Jonson, Thomas Middleton, John Webster, and Thomas Dekker

[ENGLISH 350 – English Literature before 1700](#) (Fall 2011; Discussion Section Instructor)

Advanced undergraduate lecture and discussion class of a survey of English literature from its Anglo-Saxon beginnings to 1700

University of Michigan’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

[Fiction in English Today](#) (Fall 2016; Instructor of Record)

Reading and discussion—with adult learners—of themes, interests, and urgencies of contemporary English fiction well received in the US; authors considered: Dina Nayeri, Alice Munro, Viet Thanh Nguyen, Anthony Doerr, and Richard Flanagan

University of Cambridge

Cambridge University Summer School (June-July 2009; Guest Lecturer)

Two in-depth lectures and discussion sections: “Milton and Cambridge,” and “Milton and the English Civil War”

Jadavpur University

Intermediate French Language and Literature (2007-2008; Instructor of Record)

Critical consideration of eight recent or contemporary French texts—Albert Camus to Marguerite Duras to Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clézio—to interrogate the social, cultural, and political inheritance of the francophone world

Introduction to French Language and Literature (2006-2008; Instructor of Record)

The basics of French language, and critical consideration of some contemporary French texts (with parallel English or Bengali translation)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2020 “Race, Social Justice, and DH: Applied Theories and Methods” workshop, Digital Humanities Summer Institute, University of Victoria (confirmed)
- 2018 “Buckeyes for Inclusive Excellence” workshop, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, The Ohio State University
- 2017 “Text Encoding Fundamentals and Their Application” and “Digital Humanities Pedagogy: Integration in the Curriculum” workshops, Digital Humanities Summer Institute, University of Victoria
- 2017 “Tech and Texts” workshop series on Digital Humanities Methodology and Pedagogy, Hatcher Graduate Library, University of Michigan
- 2015-2016 Graduate Teacher Certificate, Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, University of Michigan
- 2013-2015 Early Modern Palaeography Workshop, University of Michigan
- 2008 Printing on the Handpress, Historical Printing Room, Cambridge University Library
- 2006-2007 Research Assistant for international collaborative project “Travel in Renaissance England,” University of Liverpool and Jadavpur University
- 2002-2005 Diplôme de Langue Française and Diplôme Supérieur de Langue et Culture Françaises, Alliance Française du Bengale

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Undergraduate students whom I have taught at Jadavpur University and the University of Michigan have been accepted to the following (in chronological order):

PhD programme in Art and Archaeology, Princeton University
PhD programme in Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University
PhD programme in English Literature, Delhi University
PhD programme in Film Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
University of Michigan Law School
University of Michigan Medical School
University of Michigan Ross School of Business
University of Michigan New England Literature Program
University of Michigan Camp Davis/Biological Station
Jewish History Summer Internship, New York
Teach for America
Council on International Educational Exchange, Teach Abroad in Spain

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- 2018-present Publications Committee Member of the [Thinking Mountains Interdisciplinary Summit, Canadian Mountain Studies Initiative](#)
- 2011-2018 Founder and Coordinator, [Mountaineering Culture Studies Group](#), University of Michigan
- 2014-2018 [Graduate Student Associate](#), interdisciplinary multi-year research project [Early Modern Conversions](#), McGill University
- 2017 Consultant for [Bengali texts in Miranda Digital Asset Platform Prototype](#), Folger Shakespeare Library
- 2016-2017 Area consultant for scholarship and reporting on Himalayan mountaineering history, [Alpinist magazine](#)
- 2016-2017 Search Committee Member, University of Michigan's Department of English and Program in the Environment Joint Search for Tenure Line Faculty Position (Open Rank) in the Environmental Humanities
- 2011-2017 Steering Committee Member, [Early Modern Colloquium](#), University of Michigan
- 2016 Transcriber for [Transcribathon organised by Early Modern Recipes Online Collective](#)
- 2016 Organiser, Digital Humanities Panel on [DREaM](#) (Distant Reading Early Modernity), Department of English, University of Michigan
- 2016 Co-organiser, Scholarspace Session on Text-Mining with the Early English Books Online Text Creation Partnership ([EEBO-TCP](#)) Dataset, Hatcher Graduate Library, University of Michigan
- 2015 Co-organiser and participant of Transcribathon—12-hour transcribing and digitization run of early modern manuscripts—at the University of Michigan, in partnership with the Folger Shakespeare Library
- 2014-2015 Transcriber and cataloguer of early modern manuscripts at [Special Collections, Hatcher Graduate Library](#), University of Michigan
- 2013 Co-organiser, Early Modern Colloquium Conference “Violence in the Early Modern Period,” University of Michigan

LANGUAGES

Bengali: strong reading, writing, and oral skills (mother tongue)
French: strong reading and writing skills, general oral competence
Italian: general reading competence
Spanish: general reading competence
Latin: general reading competence (with use of a dictionary)
Hindi: near-native oral skills, general writing competence (second language)
Axomiya: basic oral skills, general reading competence
Nepali: basic oral skills
Oriya: basic oral skills

MEMBERSHIP OF ACADEMIC BODIES

Modern Language Association
Renaissance Society of America
Milton Society of America
Shakespeare Association of America
Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing
Society for Disability Studies

MOUNTAINEERING, ADVOCACY, CONSERVATION, AND PHOTOGRAPHY

2001-present Mountaineering expeditions to several Himalayan and North American peaks and passes, such as Jogin I (21,206 ft), Jogin III (20,060 ft), Kalindi Pass (19,600 ft), Gangotri III (21,986 ft), Sahale (8,681 ft), El Dorado (8,876 ft), and others